



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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USDA Preparing to Survey Cattle Operations, Current Count Needed *July U.S. Cattle Inventory was at Its Lowest in 40 Years*

Columbia, MO, 2015 – In January, U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey more than 40,000 cattle operations nationwide to provide an up-to-date measure of U.S. cattle inventories.

"This summer, NASS reported 95.0 million head of cattle in the United States as of July 1," said Missouri State Statistician Bob Garino. "That was the lowest July 1 inventory since the series began in 1973. Now as we gear up to conduct the January Cattle Survey, getting a current count of all cattle and calves will serve as a critical decision-making tool for producers and the entire agriculture industry."

During the first two weeks of January, Missouri producers will have the opportunity to report their beef and dairy cattle inventories, calf crop, death loss and cattle on feed operations. To make it as easy as possible for producers to participate in the survey, NASS offers the option of responding via the Internet, telephone, mail, or a personal interview with a local NASS representative.

"There is a need for current data especially with the low July inventory," Garino explained. "This information helps producers make timely, informed marketing decisions and plan for herd expansion or reduction. It also helps packers and government evaluate expected slaughter volume for future months and determine potential supplies for export."

As is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified.

The January *Cattle* report will be released on January 30, 2015. This and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, call the NASS Missouri Field Office at (800) 551-1014

NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at http://bit.ly/NASS_Subscriptions and look for "NASS Data User Community."

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